

ing the license the Council aimed at doing right, and meant to suppress a wrong. Its action was approved by the public, without inquiry as to the legality of its methods, and the general sentiment will be one of regret that the course of the Council has not been sustained by judicial action.

As to the powers of the Council in this case, examination of the charter shows that it may make ordinances for the punishment of persons who violate the provisions and terms of a license, but the revoking of a license is a different thing. The holder of a license could be sued on his bond for not complying with the terms. And under the charter the show house where the liquor was sold could be closed by the revoking of its license, under the provisions of article Four par. 37, which gives power to the City Council to "license, tax and regulate the keeping of ordinaries theatrical and other exhibitions, shows, amusements," etc., and "to revoke such license at pleasure."

The objections to the Franklin Avenue concern have been that communication was opened from the liquor department into the show department, that lewd females were employed to dispense liquor to the people in the show house, that semi-intoxicated persons were robbed, that extortion was practiced, and that lascivious conduct was promoted there, all of which was in violation of the ordinances, of morality, of good order and of public policy. And the decent people of this city looked to the Council to suppress the nuisance.

If the method adopted is not legal, some other means should be resorted to, if the concern is started up again. It is asserted that a suit for damages against the city is to be commenced by the proprietor of the liquor selling department of the Avenue house. We think it doubtful that damages will be assessed against the city in such case by any decent jury. On the other hand, there is the action that can be taken by the city against the liquor seller, both in civil and criminal law, for violation of the ordinances and the terms of his license.

Judge Anderson's decision may be in conformity with law and a strict construction of the chartered powers of the city, but public policy requires the suppression of such places as his decision encourages, and we hope the Council will see its way to proceed for the accomplishment of the necessary object on more solid and tenable ground.

At the factory of Gillblad & Co. of Gothenburg the sewing machines are run by electricity.

THE BEET SUGAR QUESTION.

THE Chicago *Tribune* of December 24 contains the following letter to Secretary Rusk on the subject of sugar making from beets raised by irrigation. The letter needs no explanation:

"TREMONT HOUSE, CHICAGO, Dec. 14.
"The Hon. J. M. Rusk, Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir,—When I saw you in Chicago in July last, you manifested a very great interest in the result of the Utah sugar beet crop, which was being raised by irrigation, the first experiment of the kind in the United States, and also as to the success of the Utah sugar factory, for the reason that this factory was the first and only one on the continent which is strictly the result of American talent, with machinery manufactured and put together by American workmen. The whole plant of machinery, weighing nearly one thousand tons, was made in America upon plans and specifications furnished by E. H. Dyer & Co., the pioneer beet sugar manufacturers of California, and erected under their immediate supervision.

In accordance with your request I now have the honor to inform you that in both particulars the enterprise has been a success; the beets, raised by irrigation, have been worked up into sugar, and have results strictly commensurate with the skill and labor applied to their cultivation. They have given good returns to the thrifty, industrious farmer, but poorer results to the unthrifty and negligent. Some of the beets showed a practical working sweetness of 14 to 18 per cent. with 80 to 86 per cent. purity coefficient, while others showed only 10 per cent. with 74 per cent. purity. But notwithstanding the rather low average of sweetness and consequent refractoriness of the beets, which condition is known to be the result of insufficient cultivation, the product has been uniformly a very fine grade of white sugar polarizing 99.9°.

"The American made machinery worked right along from the first start easily and smoothly, and as the hands, at first altogether inexperienced, improved in skill, the daily work increased in proportion until a maximum of 335 tons was consumed by the factory in a daily run of twenty-two hours. If the supply of beets had continued a few weeks longer the daily average for the season would doubtless have been 300 tons, but the acreage planted was small, only about 1500 acres having been harvested, the average tonnage of which I am not yet able to state.

Having been deeply impressed by the interest you manifested in this matter, I am sure these results will cause you great gratification.

Very respectfully submitted,
ARTHUR STAYNER.

THE COLORADO DESERT TO BECOME A GARDEN.

ACCORDING to reports from the Colorado desert in California, Salton Lake promises to become a permanent body of water. It lost a little from July to October, but since it has more than held its own. The Colorado river at Yuma bridge is now 17 feet 3 inches, and rising about three inches per week. About February 1, it is estimated that the 20-foot mark will be reached. The break on the river bank through which the water escaped last year is level

with the river at the 19-foot mark, so that before many weeks a large volume of water will be again pouring directly into Salton Lake.

If the Colorado reaches its usual June mark of twenty-five feet during the present year, the outflow of water will be so immense that it is supposed it may work for itself a new channel. It is said that no power on earth can dam the break. Here a freak of nature accomplished in a moment what different individuals have been trying to get Congress to do for years, namely, to turn the Colorado River to the west, and overflow that barren region with fresh water.

ELECTRICITY FOR RAILROADS.

AT least one railroad in the East has critically investigated the matter of electric locomotion. The Illinois Central, the general offices of which are located in Chicago, is about to make a practical test of electricity as a motive power in its Chicago suburban traffic. If found superior to steam in the movement of trains for short distances, it will next be tried for long distances on the main line.

There seems to be no good reason why electricity cannot be made available on railroads as well as for street car purposes. In the latter it has proved a success in many large cities. In Salt Lake it has been productive of much benefit to the city and people.

It is generally understood that steam has about reached its maximum—as a motive power. It is attended with many disadvantages. Electricity is looked upon as the agent by which it will be finally supplanted. It is not yet sufficiently under control to make it generally available, but experts all over the country are now investigating and studying the problem of its substitute for steam. Former trials which resulted in failure were made when electric force was not as well understood as at present. One railroad having taken the matter up anew, and being resolved to make practical tests, will help the electricians materially. They will be able to see and determine the weak points in the system and science. Practical mechanical genius, will no doubt overcome all obstacles and electric locomotion be brought near to perfection.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

In his last message to Congress President Harrison spoke very decidedly on the new law adopted by Michigan for the selection of Presidential electors. "The recent Michigan legislation